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to him without the institutions—even for the purposes of medieval study. Professor Davis's book makes about three hours' easy reading, while Mr. Jones uses about four times as much space for his irreducible minimum, and it cannot be read with profit in twelve hours. It gives one much more to think about; but, of course, it is written for adults. Mr. Jones did not have to deal with American college conditions, nor with the average student whose lack of capacity for any prolonged mental effort is seemingly taken for granted nowadays. We surmise that the latter will find Professor Davis's concise, graceful exposition, with its clever portraiture and absence of difficulties, more pleasant to read, but that the best students will derive more profit from Mr. Jones's dignified, thoughtful sketch. The English book is written with an ever-present consciousness of the existence and character of the original sources, the American with a good comprehension of the possibilities of the secondary literature. The illustrations in the former furnish a speaking set of documents for the history of Roman art; the maps in the latter are execrable.

"To tell the story of the Roman Empire in its fulness", says Mr. Jones, "is a task for which no man now living is qualified, and it is probable that the historian who is destined to achieve that task with success has yet to be born." We have better hopes of the present generation than has Mr. Jones; but it is a fact ugly and obvious that there is now in existence no large comprehensive treatment of the subject which is even remotely master of the specialized literature, and this is true no less of the Republic than of the Empire. Until such a work is produced the briefest outlines must all be unsatisfactory.

W. S. FERGUSON.

A Constitutional History of England. By A. M. Chambers. (New York, The Macmillan Company, 1909, pp. xix, 355.) In the brief compass of this little book Miss Chambers has undertaken to relate the history of the English constitution from the earliest time until the present day. She has omitted only the subject of modern local government, because she could not in so limited a space deal with it adequately, and also because many good books on this subject already exist. The omission is certainly excusable.

The author shows complete familiarity with all the modern writers on English constitutional history and a thorough comprehension of their views. She has selected for treatment the essential matters, and in each case applies a sound judgment and unusual analytical powers to the question under consideration. Add to this that her style, though necessarily a trifle dry, is simple and lucid, and that she has the gift of explaining abstract matters so that they are quickly understood, and it will be evident that her book is one of great merit. She might have spent a little more time in elucidating the process of a "fine of land" and the practice of "uses", but these are the only matters which seem not to be perfectly clear.

A book of this size devoted to so large a subject naturally partakes of the character of a series of summaries. The really remarkable thing is the ability with which the author has managed to make it a great deal more than a book of summaries. A second difficulty, due to the same cause as the first, lies in the inability of anyone to tell the exact truth because of the impossibility of telling the whole truth. Here again, Miss Chambers has succeeded beyond what could fairly be expected. Her expositions are not only clear but usually they are adequate and accurate.

In the first chapter we have an excellent discussion of the nature of the English constitution and also of the historians of the early constitutional period. The author is herself a disciple of the new Teutonic school, whose masters are Maitland and Vinogradoff. It may be that the impression one gets that this chapter and the two immediately succeeding ones are superior to the remainder is due to the method of treatment in the case of the later chapters. Here the topical method is used, the history of each institution being taken up separately for the entire period of its existence. This leads to some repetition. It seems to me that the method of dividing the history up into separate periods and treating fully of all the constitutional elements in one period before going on to the next is a better method.

There should be a selected bibliography appended to a book of this kind, especially as it seems to be intended for use as a text in schools.

RALPH C. H. CATTERALL.

A Child's Guide to American History. By Henry William Elson. (New York, The Baker and Taylor Company, 1909, pp. 364.) In this volume the author has done much the same service (for elementary history) that he performed when he prepared his *Side-Lights on American History*. There is no effort to present the material as connected and organized history. The aim has been to discuss certain great events and characters, to relate incidents and adventures not found in the ordinary text-book.

The scope of the book which is evidently intended to add life to the history lessons in the higher grammar school grades may be seen from the following chapter headings: How Europe found America (II.); Exploring the New World (III.); the First Settlers (IV.); a Long Struggle for a Continent (VI.); the Panama Canal (XXII.). Not all of the chapter introductions are as intelligible, however, and one is a bit surprised to discover under Odds and Ends (XII.), brief sketches of Albert Gallatin, Dolly Madison, the Clay-Randolph duel, and S. F. B. Morse. The descriptions of Jennie Lind, Louis Kossuth, Lewis Cass, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Franklin Pierce, and Salmon P. Chase might also be more appropriately grouped than under the title, a Batch of Biographies (XV.).